

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 13 and 22 are amended. Claim 1 is amended to address a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, in the manner suggested by the Office Action. Claims 13 and 22 are amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 1.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 because the amendments (a) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein) and (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration (as the amendments are as suggested by the Office Action and incorporate subject matter currently in claim 1). The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for pointing out the allowable subject matter in independent claim 1 and dependent claims 2-12. Applicants incorporate the allowable subject matter into the rejected independent claims 13 and 22.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. The Office Action alleges that the specification discloses the processor, and not the alteration circuit, performs required processes and not alterations. Applicants thank the Examiner for identifying the issue and suggesting an amendment to resolve it. Applicants amend the claims in the manner suggested by the Examiner and expressed by the Examiner in the "Allowable Subject Matter" section of the Office Action (please see page 11 of the Office Action). Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

The Office Action (1) rejects claims 13, 14, 18 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Kagaya et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,119,471) (Kagaya); (2) rejects claims 15-17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kagaya in view of Lam et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,417,014); (3) rejects claim 19

under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kagaya in view of Eschbach et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,102,792) (Eschbach); (4) rejects claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kagaya in view of Giuffrida et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0028503); and (5) rejects claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kagaya in view of Appelman (U.S. Patent No. 6,112,250). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

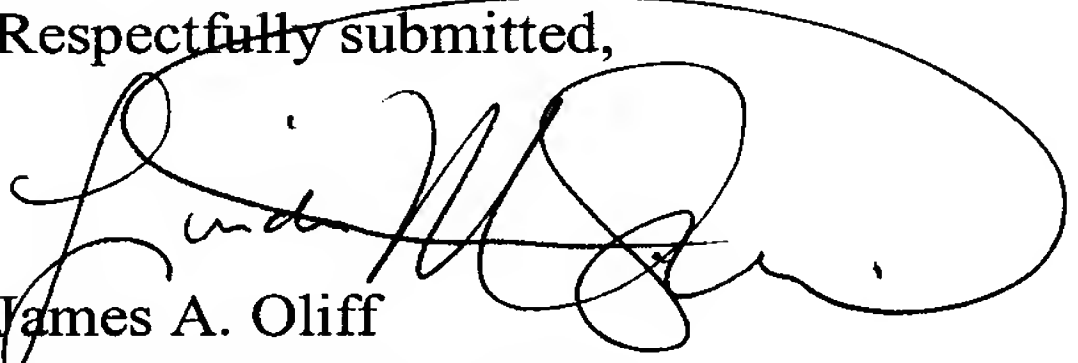
Applicants have amended independent claims 13 and 22 to include the allowable subject matter recited by independent claim 1. The Office Action acknowledges that Kagaya fails to disclose or suggest following at least some of the required processes, determining whether the stored electronic data is awaiting further required processes unable to be performed at that time following the performed required processes, determining if the stored electronic data will be waiting for a sufficient period of time between the required processes; and altering the stored electronic data with optional alternations after determining that the stored electronic data will be waiting for the sufficient period of time, as recited by independent claim 13. Claim 22 similarly recites altering the stored electronic data with optional alterations when it is determined that the stored electronic data will be waiting for the predetermined sufficient period of time. Thus, independent claims 13 and 22 are patentable over Kagaya.

The Office Action acknowledges that the applied references fail to disclose or suggest the combination of features of independent claim 1. Independent claims 13 and 22 are amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 1. Thus, claims 13 and 22 and their dependent claims are patentable over the applied references for at least these reasons. Withdrawal of the rejections are requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of all pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: April 18, 2008

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